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characterised in that:

commutation of power to the motor windings is terminated,

the voltage of the DC power supply is monitored,

5 and when the DC power supply voltage exceeds a pre-determined value the inductive winding of an unused component in said machine is connected across said DC power supply until the DC power supply voltage reduces below said pre-determined value.

10 8. A method according to claim 7 wherein said unused component is a water pump powered by a single phase induction motor, the winding of which is electronically commutated from said DC power supply by bridge connected switching devices, said switching devices are controlled by a microprocessor, the DC power supply voltage is monitored by said microprocessor and said microprocessor causes said switching devices to connect the winding of said pump motor across said DC power supply.

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9. A top loading laundry washing machine having a spin tub which is braked according to the method of either one of claims 7 or 8.

20 10. A method of powering on and off a laundry washing machine where power is consumed in the form of direct current using a switched mode power supply of the type described in Australian Patent 651408 characterised in that:

25 an active switching device connected between the base of the lower switch in the motor bridge drive used as part of said switched mode power supply and the lower voltage rail is switched on by a latching circuit to cause the DC power supplies in said machine to be disabled,

the latching circuit comprises a capacitor charged from the high voltage rail for said laundry machine motor in parallel with a transistor biased from the switched mode power supply low voltage rail, and

30 a push button normally off switch connected in parallel with said capacitor is used to discharge said capacitor to disable said latching circuit to thereby enable the laundry machine DC power supplies.

35 11. An optocoupler drive circuit for the high side of a totem pole power transistor pair in a bridge circuit for commutating a motor characterised in that the optocoupler does not use a logic inverter on the output side and the optocoupler transistor is